

Vassiliou criticises Turkish Cypriots

UNITED-NATIONS (R) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou blamed the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey Friday for the failure to convene an international meeting this month to end the division on Cyprus. "At no time during the last three years was the world community as hopeful that a solution of the Cyprus problem was close at hand as it was this summer," he said in a speech to the General Assembly. Mr. Vassiliou, who is also leader of the Greek Cypriot community, said he welcomed an announcement by U.S. President George Bush on Aug. 2 that a meeting would take place by the end of September if adequate progress was made by then. Mr. Vassiliou was referring to long-standing United Nations efforts to obtain agreement on a federal system of government to reunite the island. "It soon transpired that the Turkish Cypriot leadership was placing augmented preconditions for the continuation of the process," Mr. Vassiliou said. His claim to "a separate right to self-determination" was responsible for the failure of talks here early last year under the auspices of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he added.

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Bush releases aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, citing Jordan's recent help in the Middle East peace process, has told Congress he is releasing U.S. military aid to Amman that had been frozen by Congress. The U.S. Congress had frozen the aid last April because of Jordan's support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Bush's decision, reflecting a gradual warming of relations between the two countries, follows the freeing of Jordan's economic aid in July. In a letter to Congress made public Friday, Mr. Bush said Jordan would now be eligible for \$20 million in arms sales financing and would be provided up to \$783,000 in military training. Fulfilling the requirements of the April legislation, Mr. Bush assured Congress that the aid would be beneficial to the Middle East peace process and was in the U.S. national interest.

A memorandum justifying the decision to obligate the aid funds said that since Mr. Bush released the economic aid in July, "Jordan has clarified its stance on the Middle East peace process in a very helpful way."

It said the Jordan government had stated categorically that it would attend an Arab-Israel peace conference arranged by the United States and had initiated discussions with Palestinians to form a joint delegation to the conference.

The statement said the administration intended to monitor Jordan's policies closely, including its role in the peace process and its enforcement of United Nations resolutions on Iraq in making specific decisions on aid.

"Jordan has begun taking important steps to make the goal of a regional peace conference and direct talks between Jordan and Israel a reality," the statement said. "Jordan's continued cooperation will be a key to further progress."

The statement said that U.S. military aid to Jordan "and especially the important message of support it sends" would contribute to Jordan's stability and security and help establish an atmosphere of trust.

Menem to promote Mideast peace

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem leaves Sunday for official visits to Israel and Tunisia during which he will seek to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East. "The president will stress (the need to) achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East... which recognises the right of all the states in the region to live peacefully within secure and internationally accepted frontiers," a statement by the presidential spokesman said. Mr. Menem, who governs Latin America's biggest Jewish community and is himself of Syrian descent, has frequently offered to mediate Mideast peace conflict.

Amra Hotel introduces CNN service

AMMAN — In line with its ongoing efforts to offer the best for its clients and businessmen, Amra Hotel has introduced the CNN channel in all its rooms and other facilities. CNN broadcasts news around the clock.

Amra Hotel is the first hotel in Jordan to introduce this service to international businessmen who are interested in following up on world events.

Commenting on the new service, Ali Bishara, the hotel's general manager said that introducing the CNN channel comes as a great step to ensure that the best services are provided to the hotel's clients of business.

PNC seen heading towards accepting peace conference

Arafat praises Bush's statement, seeks clear 'yes' from PNC

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked the Palestine National Council (PNC) to give a clear "yes" to the U.S.-sponsored peace conference even if Washington cannot meet all its original demands, delegates said Friday.

One Palestinian official told Reuters that already a majority favoured dropping a demand that the United States give the PLO a guarantee that Palestinians in the occupied territories would enjoy the right to self-determination.

The PLO would downgrade this to an "objective" which the Palestinians would take to the conference, the official added.

Mr. Yitzhak Shamir to stop the peace process."

"This is an ongoing process. We cannot deal with every issue before we go into negotiations. Otherwise why should we go to the conference?" he told a news conference Friday.

Mr. Arafat praised U.S. President George Bush Friday for a "courageous stand" in endorsing the concept of Palestine political rights.

Earlier Friday, Mr. Arafat read out to his advisers a document drafted two years ago, the first "republican decree" he issued as president of the state of Palestine.

The public reminder of who controls the drive for a homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, calling it a "very important

ing discontent over compromises the movement's leaders are reported to have accepted to enable convening the peace conference."

Mr. Abu Sharif told reporters that the PLO Executive Committee was dealing with the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the talks, but that nothing had been decided yet.

Asked if designating the team meant the PLO would publicly announce it, possibly breaking an Israeli condition that the PLO not participate in the talks, Mr. Abu Sharif said, "that is a different thing."

Mr. Abu Sharif urged the Israeli government to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, calling it a "very important

preparatory step to building confidence."

"Mr. Shamir is trying to put obstacles to direct attention from the essential point, which is ending occupation," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

"But the PLO will definitely find the proper formula to make it impossible for Mr. Shamir to prevent Palestinians from attending the peace conference," he continued. "I don't see an obstacle big enough to prevent Palestinians from participating."

In his speech, Mr. Arafat praised Mr. Bush for comments relayed through Morocco's King Hassan II that appeared to be a significant change in previous

(Continued on page 5)

Baghdad impasse continues despite signs of compromise

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A

loggerheads over the use of their own helicopters by the ballistic missile teams, who have already aborted one mission to inspect launch sites in the west of the country from where Scud missiles were fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

In New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Friday Iraq was risking further conflict by not complying with Security Council resolutions to cooperate with the weapons inspectors.

The 45-member group which arrived on Sunday is the largest team of inspectors yet sent to Iraq. One man did not go on Tuesday's early morning mission to a records office opposite the group's hotel because of sickness.

The leader of the 21-member ballistic missile team due this Sunday said on Friday in Bahrain, field headquarters for the weapon inspection missions: "We may postpone our departure."

A visit by a 70-member chemical weapons inspection team is also scheduled for early October to make an exhaustive inspection of the Muthanna site near Baghdad where chemical weapon destructions are planned.

Speaking to reporters, U.S. President George Bush sounded clearly prepared to use military force if diplomacy fails.

"Whatever happens, Iraq is going to comply. That's the point," he said. "We are prepared to do whatever it takes to enforce the resolutions."

The New York Times reported in its Friday editions that the White House halted plans to send attack helicopters and warplanes to Saudi Arabia after the Saudi defence minister told Washington he saw no need for more weapons to be sent to the kingdom.

Asked about the report, Mr. Bush said: "We haven't changed any plans. We have a plan. Stay with the plan."

The newspaper also said General Joseph Hoar, the new Chief of the U.S. Central Command, had received presidential authority to begin drawing up a list of targets in Iraq should Mr. Bush decide to order punitive air strikes.

Iraq had initially demanded that the team relinquish the documents, but the inspectors refused.

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir rules out Husseini and Ashrawi in peace talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday ruled out a role in Middle East peace talks for two Palestinian leaders who could face prosecution for allegedly attending an Algiers session of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Israel has said it will not attend a U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference unless it can veto Palestinian representation at the talks.

Asked if he would consent to U.S. leaders meeting the two, Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Al Husseini, Mr. Shamir said: "That's an American issue... but it is clear in advance that these people will not represent anyone in the negotiations."

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Husseini led Palestinian delegations which met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in occupied Jerusalem during his seven peace missions to the Middle East this year.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said the two addressed the PNC on Thursday in Algiers, where they were said by delegates to have urged the meeting to back the U.S. plan.

Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi denied they were at the conference.

"We didn't (leave) the United Kingdom at all during the last

days. I and Hanan cannot be in two places at the same time," Mr. Husseini told Israel Radio Friday (see page 2).

Israeli authorities have said they will prosecute anyone who attends the PNC meeting under a law barring contact with members of the PLO. The PNC is the decision-making body of the PLO.

Mr. Shamir said participation by the two Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories at the PNC meeting would not affect peace talks.

"I don't think this influences the peace process. It influences the authorities' treatment of these people because in such a case it will be clear that they violated the law."

The prime minister denied reports that the U.S. pressured Israel to allow the two to attend the meeting.

Both Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi are residents of Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Shamir refuses to negotiate at any peace conference with East Jerusalem residents.

Many prominent Palestinian activists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip live in East Jerusalem.

Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters she and Mr. Husseini would travel to Washington soon.

"Of course it is hard to expect that success will be achieved in a day or a week. The negotiations could continue a year or two years," the Egyptian president said.

"The important thing, however, is to strive to continue the negotiating process so that these peace efforts may lead to peace in the region."

The Soviet Union, effectively shorn of its superpower status by political and economic crises at home, has a vital stake in the Baltics.

"There are forces who do not want the conflict to end," he said.

He was referring to renewed fighting in the mountainous region which broke out after the tentative peace agreement was reached on Monday.

While not directly criticising the parliament of Tadzhikistan for reinstating Communist leader Rakim Nabiyev and declaring a state of emergency, Mr. Gorbachev said "each republic must understand the need to continue democratic development."

Mr. Nabiyev, who was ousted several months after Mr. Gorbachev became Kremlin leader in 1985, was reinstated on Monday. He replaced acting President Kadriddin Aslonov, who tried to abolish the Communist Party.

The republics of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan are backing away from earlier offers to hand over to the Russian republic nuclear missiles stationed on their territory, a senior Russian official said.

"This is not realistic, not factual," he said, repeating several times that "the situation is worsening" in Georgia.

"I think that President Gamsakhurdia and his opponents ought to exert the maximum goodwill to peacefully resolve their conflict," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev endorsed

efforts by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to broker a truce in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan.

"But unfortunately I read in the newspapers today that there was more shooting, that five people were killed. That's not just permissible," Mr. Gorbachev said.

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DFLP row resolved

NICOSIA (R) — The hardline faction of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said Friday it had solved a dispute on who should represent the group on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee. A statement faxed to Reuters from the Damascus-based DFLP said an agreement was reached Thursday with the chairman of the Executive Committee, Yasser Arafat, that the DFLP is the legitimate front led by its secretary general Nayef Hawatmeh. The DFLP, which has 12 seats in the Palestine National Council (PNC), currently meeting in Algiers to decide whether or not to take part in a Middle East peace conference, broke into two independent groups earlier this month. Yasser Abd Rabbo, who represents the DFLP at the PLO Executive Committee, leads the Tunis-based moderate breakaway wing of the DFLP. The statement said it had also been agreed that Mr. Hawatmeh was the one who would name the DFLP representative to the PLO Executive Committee and that Mr. Abd Rabbo would join the executive committee as an independent. It said the agreement had been reached with the PLO Executive Committee in the presence of Mr. Arafat, Mr. Hawatmeh and several of his aides and a large number of PNC members.

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Thursday held a series of meetings with his counterparts taking part in the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr. Ensour discussed with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher the latest developments in the Middle East and ongoing peace process in the region as well as bilateral relations.

He also met with the foreign ministers of Canada, Cuba and Romania.

Dr. Ensour earlier met with American Secretary of State James Baker and discussed with him the latest developments in the region and efforts to convene a peace conference in October.

He held meetings with the foreign ministers of Spain, Australia, Austria, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Senegal, Tunisia and Colombia. He also met with the prime minister of New Zealand and discussed with him the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

His 45-minute meeting with Secretary Baker, Dr. Ensour said, was good and provided an opportunity to review the ongoing peace efforts. He added that he and Mr. Baker also discussed the letter of guarantees Jordan has requested before convening the peace conference.

Dr. Ensour also attended a working dinner hosted by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdi Maguid in honour of the Arab foreign ministers attending the General Assembly session.

On Wednesday, Dr. Ensour met with the foreign minister of Bangladesh, Iran, Albania, India, Norway and Finland.

Gorbachev: Mideast peace parley on track

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Friday he still hoped a Middle East peace conference could start in October and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the proposed Arab-Israeli talks could last a year.

Mr. Gorbachev told reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak in the Kremlin that October remained a realistic target for the conference despite "some doubts" that had arisen in recent weeks. He did not elaborate.

"We are acting on the basis of precisely such a time-scale," Mr. Gorbachev said. "I think this process is so essential, and we have come so close to it, that all sides understand their responsibility and are taking steps."

Mr. Mubarak, the first Arab leader to visit Moscow since last month's failed communist coup, denied that the peace talks may be arduous.

"Of course it is hard to expect that success will be achieved in a day or a week. The negotiations could continue a year or two years," the Egyptian president said.

"The important thing, however, is to strive to continue the negotiating process so that these peace efforts may lead to peace in the region."

The Soviet Union, effectively shorn of its superpower status by political and economic crises at home, has a vital stake in the Baltics.

"The continued building of settlements on the West Bank is the single most difficult obstacle to overcome. (Continued building) is almost proof that peace negotiations will not be successful," Mr. Carter said Thursday after a speech to an audience of about 2,000 people at Goucher College in Baltimore.

Former President Jimmy Carter says the peace process in the Middle East hinges on Israel settlement-building on the West Bank.

"The continued building of settlements on the West Bank is the

Ashrawi, Husseini deny attending PNC meeting in Algiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi, threatened with prosecution by Israel if she defied a ban on contacting the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), denied she went to Algiers for the Palestinian National Council (PNC) conference.

PLO sources said Thursday afternoon that Dr. Ashrawi and Faisal Al Husseini, who have been go-betweens between Washington and the PLO, had left Algiers after speaking at a PNC session.

The sources said they were going to Washington to brief U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the (PNC) meeting, called to decide whether Palestinians should take part in Middle East peace talks tentatively planned for next month.

At 2315 GMT on Thursday, Reuter correspondent Colleen Siegel telephoned a London hotel and spoke to a woman she identified as Dr. Ashrawi.

Here are the main extracts of their conversation:

Q: Are you denying your were in Algiers?

A: Yes, I have been denying the story, both Faisal and I have been denying the story.

Q: Where have you been for the last two days?

A: We've been in England. We haven't left the U.K. We have a lot of work to do and it's all related to the peace process.

Q: Do you have any way to corroborate where you were in the last two days?

A: Listen, if we are placed on trial then we will have to present evidence, but I hope we aren't

going to be put on trial by the press.

Q: Are you going to Washington?

A: We are going to Washington, but we haven't decided when yet.

In Algiers PLO sources said Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi, who have seen Mr. Baker on most of his seven missions to the Middle East this year, urged a divided PNC to go along with the U.S. plan for talks.

Officials said they received a warm welcome, even from delegates who disagree with them on the peace conference.

Israel's defence ministry said in a statement:

"It becomes clear that people from (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip participated in the Palestine National Council the steps dictated by law will be taken against them."

In August, Mr. Husseini, Dr. Ashrawi, and Zakaria Al Agha, the Palestinian team that has met Mr. Baker on his peace shuttles, consulted on peace efforts with PLO officials in London.

Israeli police interrogated them on their return and said they would decide later whether to lay charges.

Dr. Ashrawi, a sharp-witted, articulate professor of English, is emerging as a leading voice of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

A week ago she left her West Bank home in the middle of the night and crossed into Jordan for hastily-arranged talks with Mr. Baker. He delayed his departure from Amman to see her.

She flew to London from Amman.

In an interview broadcast on



Hanan Ashrawi



Faisal Husseini

Israel Radio Friday, Mr. Husseini also flatly denied that either he or Dr. Ashrawi was in Algiers.

"You know that we were in London and we are now in London," he told Israel Radio. "We didn't leave the U.K. at all during the last days. And I can't and Hanan can't be in two places at the same time. We were in England."

On Thursday, police spokesman Yediot Aharonot reported to reports that Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi were in Algiers, told the Associated Press: "If they were there, we will call them in for questioning and we will investigate."

Israel does not hesitate to prosecute under the statute. Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan served a jail sentence last year after he was convicted for meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. He recently was convicted for a later meeting with Mr. Arafat and still faces sentence.

In response to allegations that Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi went to Algiers for talks with PLO officials, right-wing Israeli legislators have demanded they either be banned from returning home or jailed for investigation.

Mr. Shamir's bureau chief Yosi Ahimeir, asked if Israel would take into account the potential

political damage before prosecuting the two, told Reuters: "If we have to consider other things, we will consider them."

Israel insist the U.S. exclude the PLO from any talks and refuses to speak to Palestinians affiliated with the PLO.

Mr. Husseini and Mr. Ashrawi insist in meeting with Mr. Baker that the PLO is the Palestinians' sole representative.

"They are in daily contact with the PLO. Everybody knows the PLO is being represented by Husseini and Ashrawi," said opposition parliament member Dedi Zacker. "Only some (government) ministers pretend they do not."

Meanwhile, the Hebrew daily Yediot Aharonot said Friday that Israeli diplomats have warned Mr. Baker against meeting with Mr. Husseini and Dr. Arafat. He recently was expected to travel from London to Washington this weekend.

Such talks would "hurt the effort to convene a peace conference," the diplomats reportedly told Mr. Baker's delegation to the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Husseini was quoted by Israeli Radio as saying the warning to Mr. Baker suggested Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was trying to back out of the peace conference.

U.N. agency hopes for 'voluntary repatriation' of stranded Somalis

By A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent flare-up in factional fighting in Somalia has delayed the departure home of Somali nationals stranded in Jordan since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The international agency offering them help remains hopeful that the situation will clear itself soon so that it could go ahead with their "voluntary repatriation" after their application to joint families in Britain has been turned down by the British government.

Seventy-six Somali nationalals remained in Jordan as of Thursday, having sought the help of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to find asylum in a third country as soon as they arrived in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In addition, 19 Iranians are also in Jordan awaiting UNHCR help. Some of the Iranian refugees have already been granted political asylum in Scandinavia and Canada, while others' cases are being processed, according to Javine de Riedmann, chief of the UNHCR mission in Jordan.

In the case of the Somalis, whether from the south or north, the ouster of President Mohammad Siad Barre earlier this year has removed the main reason for their quest for political asylum abroad.

But, said Mr. Riedmann, such actions do not help since it is not in UNHCR hands to decide where the refugees go. "We are trying our best to help everyone, but it is up to the various governments to decide whether or not to accept them," he said.

Twelve Ethiopians also remain in Jordan. But their request for political asylum in a third country is no longer valid after rebels overthrew the regime of dictator Haile Mengistu Mariam in May. These have legal permits to stay in Jordan, but the UNHCR will have to step in and help them to return home as and when the validity of the permits expire.

Under UNHCR criterion, most of the stranded third country nationals in Jordan — except the Iranians — are "persons of concern" rather than refugees. "A formal 'refugee' status is granted only after the concerned person can prove that he or she stands 'individual persec-

tion' at home."

Most of the northern Somalis remaining in Jordan had applied to the British government for permission to join relatives in Britain, but the applications were turned down on the ground that the relatives were not immediate family members and that the relationship was not close enough.

That leaves them no alternative but to return home, particularly that most of them are from the Issaq clan whose members form the core of the Somali National Movement, which took over northern Somalia after the ouster of Mr. Siad Barre and proclaimed an independent republic in the north.

The destination of the northern Somalis is the port of Berbera in the north. However, it was not immediately known how many of the northerners are willing to accept the "voluntary repatriation."

For southern Somalis, some of whom still argue that their lives will be under threat if they returned home, the situation remains unclear, especially after the recent factional fighting in Mogadishu.

Some of the southern Somalis and Iranians have staged hunger strikes at the Andalus transit camp, where they are accommodated, to support their demand for UNHCR action to find them refuge.

But, said Mr. Riedmann, such actions do not help since it is not in UNHCR hands to decide where the refugees go. "We are trying our best to help everyone, but it is up to the various governments to decide whether or not to accept them," he said.

"We are hopeful that passage for the Somalis could be arranged soon," Mr. Riedmann said. But, he reaffirmed, "we will not send anyone anywhere without his or her explicit consent."

"The American intelligence and the (Israeli) Mossad committed criminal acts including assassination, kidnapping and terrorizing Iraqi and Arab scientists ... to prevent Iraq and other Arab countries acquire modern technology," Hamed Yousef Humadi told the Iraqi News Agency.

The minister was commenting on the standoff between U.N. nuclear weapons inspectors and Baghdad over access to files.

The minister said the files were "personal files of those who work in the Iraqi Nuclear Commission and the Ministry of Industry."

Mr. Humadi said the first "martyr" was the Egyptian scientist Yehia Al Mashad, who specialized in nuclear reactor engineering and was killed in Paris in 1980. He did not say if the Egyptian scientist was working for Iraq.

They provide names of foreign companies that sold Iraq thousands of components.

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Home News

International conference on fertilisers to be held in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC) will organise an international conference on fertilisers in October to discuss means of developing the fertiliser industry in the country with the help of foreign expertise.

At least 50 Indian industrialists and experts will attend the five-day meeting, according to a statement by the JPMC.

JPMC Director General Wasef Azar said that the meeting, which is held every two years, aims to bolster cooperation between Jordanian and Indian experts to promote the development of the fertiliser industry through the utilisation of phosphate and potash mines in Jordan.

The Indian experts will submit a number of working papers and will make field trips to fertiliser plants as well as the JPMC and the APC plants in southern Jordan, he said.

India is the largest market for Jordan's potash and fertilisers.



CHARITY AFFAIR — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opened the second annual bazaar of the Promise Welfare Society, held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. Proceeds from the bazaar benefit the poor and needy in Jordan. The bazaar includes handmade items, embroidery, flowers, silverware, copperware, colour glass, clothes, bamboo and wooden items. Also attending the bazaar were Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, Princess Ghada, a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and a number of invitees. Also Thursday, Queen Noor opened Um Qais Resthouse in the northern part of Jordan where a tourist village will be established at the archaeological site. She was received by Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who said that the cost of the resthouse was JD 45,000.

History society awards King and Crown Prince medals

AMMAN (Petra) — Mustafa Abdal Qader Al Najjar, Secretary General of the Arab Historians' Union, Friday praised His Majesty King Hussein's pan-Arab stands and his leading role in reformulating Arab history.

In a statement he made to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, prior to his departure to Baghdad, Dr. Najjar said the AHU's general secretariat decided to award King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Arab History's Golden Medal in appreciation of their distinguished role in shaping

contemporary Arab history.

Dr. Najjar headed a delegation of Arab historians on a weeklong tour which took them to Jordan, Mauritania and Morocco.

Talking about the outcome of his tour, he said that he agreed with historians he saw during his tour on holding three international conferences on Arab history. The first will be held at Kualalampur University in Tanzania in cooperation with the Asian Historians Association. It will discuss the role of Arabs and muslims in transferring science to Europe.

Dr. Najjar noted with appreciation Prince Hassan's offer to print the latest issue of the Arab Historian magazine at his own expense. The Arab-Historian Union has 12,000 members.



Hashem Khreisat
Journalism symposium to review press role in war

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA), in cooperation with the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), will open a three-day symposium at the Amman Plaza Hotel Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A total of 40 prominent journalists representing 25 press organisations from around the world, together with Jordanian journalists, are taking part in the symposium entitled "Press Coverage in Wartime," according to JPA President Hashem Khreisat.

The symposium will focus attention on two important elements: objectivity and the role of journalists, said Mr. Khreisat at a press conference held Thursday.

He said many working papers will be reviewed during the coming symposium, providing information about news coverage during armed conflicts, difficulties encountered by journalists in the course of such coverage, dangerous situations such as imprisonment, injuries and repression journalists face while conducting their work along with censorship of the news reports.

The time has come for Mr. Turkmen to urge the U.N. General Assembly to implement its own earlier resolutions concerning the distribution of food rations to the refugees and not to restrict such aid to the very needy alone, Mr. Irshaid said.

He added that the agency should also cut down on unnecessary expenses and increase allocations for services on schools and education as well as health and social services to the refugees.

In view of the very serious circumstances in the Arab region in the wake of the Gulf crisis, UNRWA ought to prepare a budget that would take into consideration the real needs of the

children at the nursery and kindergarten level and to offer teachers sufficient incentives to carry out their duties. They called for the development of secondary school, community college and university education to meet local needs and urged universities to upgrade scientific research.

They also called on the government to offer soft loans and credit facilities to cooperative societies and residents of rural regions to initiate projects.

In the water and food security field, the participants called for immediate programmes for the efficient use of water resources.

They also called on Ministry of Education to step up efforts to reduce the illiteracy rate in Jordan to 8 per cent by the end of the present century, down from 19 per cent at present.

The participants want the government to create incentives for the private sector so that it can carry out projects in the rural regions to stem migration to urban areas and cities, therefore helping alleviate the unemployment problem in the country.

The participants urged the government to resort to modern technology to help desalinate sea water to obtain sufficient water for the southern regions.

Population conference calls on government to initiate various measures to address problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference on population in Jordan and their basic needs between 1991 and 2005 has ended with the participants issuing a set of recommendations tackling health, water, food and social services for the population of Jordan in the coming 15 years.

Her Royal Highness Princess Bassama, who presided over the meeting, voiced appreciation to the U.N. Population Fund and other participants for their efforts at the conference and expressed hope that the recommendations would be put into practice to meet the kingdom's population needs.

According to the conference's statement, the participants called on concerned authorities to give more attention to the education

of children at the nursery and

kindergarten level and to offer teachers sufficient incentives to carry out their duties. They called for the development of secondary school, community college and university education to meet local needs and urged universities to upgrade scientific research.

They also called on the government to offer soft loans and credit facilities to cooperative societies and residents of rural regions to initiate projects.

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The participants want the government to create incentives for the private sector so that it can carry out projects in the rural regions to stem migration to urban areas and cities, therefore helping alleviate the unemployment problem in the country.

UNRWA commission holds meeting, Jordanian official urges agency to step up services to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which held its first meeting ever in Amman Thursday, is touring Palestinian refugee camps today to inspect services to residents and to examine vocational training offered to the trainees.

The 10-member commission meeting presided over by UNRWA Commissioner General Ditter Turkmen has reviewed the agency's 1992-93 budget and a draft report which the commissioner plans to submit to the United Nations General Assembly about UNRWA's operations between July 1990 and June 1991.

Addressing Thursday's meeting, Adel Irshaid, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, spoke in detail about the plight of the Palestinian refugees under Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking on behalf of the countries hosting refugees — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — Mr. Irshaid said that the re-

quest issue constitutes the crux of the Palestine question and the UNRWA commissioner ought to include in his report a demand from the world community to work towards the repatriation or compensation of these refugees.

Arab countries hosting the refugees, he said, shoulder heavy financial burdens in caring for them but the commissioner's draft report barely touched on this issue.

In view of the very serious circumstances in the Arab region in the wake of the Gulf crisis, UNRWA ought to prepare a budget that would take into consideration the real needs of the

refugees; and submit the budget to the world community so that it can ensure sufficient assistance, Mr. Irshaid said.

The time has come for Mr. Turkmen to urge the U.N. General Assembly to implement its own earlier resolutions concerning the distribution of food rations to the refugees and not to restrict such aid to the very needy alone, Mr. Irshaid said.

He added that the agency should also cut down on unnecessary expenses and increase allocations for services on schools and education as well as health and social services to the refugees.

Jordan, Cyprus exchange documents

NICOSIA (Petra) — Jordan and Cyprus Thursday exchanged documents of ratification of the Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Agreement concluded between both countries. Exchanging the documents for the Jordanian government was its ambassador to Cyprus, Samir Khalifa, while it was exchanged for the Cypriot side by the Foreign Ministry's Cultural Department director. Under the agreement, both countries will exchange visits by officials and cooperate on educational radio and television programmes.

Iraqi artists to be featured

AMMAN (J.T.) — A plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Jidi and Sabih Al Yasin will be opened next Saturday at Alia Art Gallery by Culture and Information Minister Khalid Al Karaki.

Mr. Jidi, born in Kufa in 1939, is a specialist in copper plate designs. He received a degree in arts from the Higher Academy of Arts in Budapest and was a teacher at the Traditional Handicrafts and Industries Institute in Baghdad.

His partner in the exhibition, Mr. Yasin, graduated from the Ceramics Department of the Baghdad Fine Arts Institute in 1977, and was then appointed chairman of the Iraqi Ceramics Society for a five-year term.

He depicts the past and the present combined in a modern style. One can find a reference in his works to Iraqi traditions.

The exhibition will last for ten days and will be open to the public between 10 a.m. till 7 p.m.

Jordan, Libya reach agreement on cooperation in health fields

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Libya will sign minutes of deliberations today over bilateral cooperation in health fields following two days of meetings between official delegations from the two countries.

Libya's side to the talks was led by visiting Minister of Health Zeidan Badar Zeidan and the Jordanian side was led by Health Minister Mamoud Al Abbadi. Both ministers were received by Prime Minister Taib Masri, who was briefed on the initial agreements reached in the talks designed to promote cooperation in health fields and in the pharmaceutical industry.

The subject of integration between Libya and Jordan in health sectors, the exchange of visits by health experts and workers, Libya's institutions benefiting from Jordanian expertise and providing them with Jordanian doctors and technicians were discussed at the meeting, according to an official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the two sides reviewed an earlier protocol which provided for Jordanian doctors to work in Libya and to provide Jordanian expertise for Libyan health institutions.

The question of providing Jordanian medicines and medical equipment, Libya's benefiting from Jordan's facilities in medicine control and



Jordanian and Libyan officials hold talks on cooperation in health and pharmaceutical fields.

The two sides will today sign an agreement on cooperation in these fields (Petra photo)

frank. He said that the employment of Jordanian doctors in Libya figured prominently in the talks. Dr. Zeidan said that the talks were fruitful and constructive.

The two sides agreed that Jordanian doctors be given priority over others in employment in Libyan hospitals and health centres. He said preference will also be given to Jordanian pharmaceutical industries in Libyan markets.

The two sides, it said, discussed means of cooperation in spreading health education and in adopting unified curricula in the teaching of medicine in either country.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint technical committee to take charge of following up the implementation of the agreements.

Following the meeting, Dr. Abbadi described the talks as positive, constructive and

frank. He said that the employment of Jordanian doctors in Libya figured prominently in the talks. Dr. Zeidan said that the talks were fruitful and constructive.

The two sides agreed that Jordanian doctors be given priority over others in employment in Libyan hospitals and health centres. He said preference will also be given to Jordanian pharmaceutical industries in Libyan markets.

Mr. Roettiger spoke of his experience in World War II, in the Solomon Islands and in the north of Australia and recounted how he left when he saw a picture of a small girl and a baby in the pocket of a Japanese soldier killed in action.

"Instead," he said, his speech slower as he remembered, "... the train accelerated to what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) later said was 17 miles an hour and ran into us. I went under the train and it took both my legs and a piece of my skull was pushed into my brain. I am actually missing part of my right frontal lobe. I have a plastic skull and artificial legs."

"When I saw what the bombs were doing to the Vietnamese people, I was shocked and had to oppose the bombing," he said.

As with Mr. Roettiger, each member of the group has their own story to tell about what increased their resolve to continue risking their lives for the sake of a peaceful world.

Mr. Wilson remembers how he fought in Vietnam as an Air Force lieutenant in charge of protecting airplanes which were bombing villages.

"When I saw what the bombs were doing to the Vietnamese people, I was shocked and had to oppose the bombing," he said.

Being an officer, to oppose bombing while guarding the planes would have been considered as treason, and so "I simply stated to my superiors that what we were doing violated all international standards of decency and international law as well as the Hague and Geneva conventions."

Ever since then, Mr. Wilson has been speaking out against war and U.S. policy.

Mr. Wilson also recalled how he lost his legs in a protest against American arms supplies to the government in El Salvador and the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

A group of activists decided to block a train carrying ammunition from California to be shipped to Latin America, Mr. Wilson said.

"We have given them 10 days notice that a group of us would be protesting non-violently and again we told them on the same day the train left that we were beginning our blockade," he said.

The train, he continued, has

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen opens centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open three social development centres Saturday in Maan Governorate. The centres were set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in the governorate in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank. These centres are Maan Special Education Centre, al Qaa Social Development Centre and Al Ikhla Society for Social Development.

Olympic soccer team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Olympic soccer team returned to Amman from Bahrain Friday after taking part in the qualifying matches of Group C in Asia, which grouped besides Jordan the Olympic teams of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Sri Lanka. Bahrain qualified for the finals of Asia after topping the group's standings with 4 points, followed by Saudi Arabia and Jordan which also had four points in the final standings. The Bahraini team had the score difference in its advantage since only one team was to qualify in the group. The Jordanian team played

three matches, won two of them and lost one. It defeated the Saudi team 2-1 and the Sri Lankan 7-0 but lost to Bahrain 0-4. Jordan's captain, Hisham Abdul Man'men, won the trophy for the highest scorer in the tournament after scoring four goals, three against Sri Lanka and one against Saudi Arabia.

Official receives Libyan delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Ministry Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh Thursday received a Libyan industrial delegation currently on a visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian industrialists on means of promoting and enhancing industrial relations. Dr. Khasawneh discussed with the delegation Libya's requirements of Jordanian labour force and voiced the ministry's readiness to provide help in accordance with Libya's needs. He noted that the ministry will be ready to provide assistance, once Libya identifies its labour force needs, specifies the required qualifications, years of experience and terms of employment. He added that a Libyan technical committee will soon be visiting Jordan to meet with Jordanians wishing to work in Libya.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Boulos at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.

LECTURE

★ Lecture by Dr. Gunter Dreyer, 2nd director of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, on "The Royal Tombs of Alytus" at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

Jordan Times

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First things first

THE PROPOSAL of Canada to postpone the convening of a regional conference on water resources till there is a breakthrough in the projected Arab-Israeli peace talks sounds reasonable and appropriate. It would be infinitely more productive to hold such a regional meeting on the issue of water on the foundation of peace and stability rather than on the current basis of animosity and hostility. The suggested new timing for discussing water-related issues would correspond well with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's idea to hold a Helsinki-type conference on security and cooperation for the countries of the Middle East as soon as the impending peace parley between Israel and the concerned Arab parties materialises. This way the issue of Israeli participation would cease to be a problem or a stumbling block in the face of getting the countries of the area together for this purpose. Besides any such important regional subjects and concerns would remain devoid of proper bearing without the overall framework of peace in the area.

At the same time, it is useful nonetheless to indicate as of now, as is the case with the proposal to hold a Helsinki-type conference on energy, disarmament and debt matters in the Middle East that such idea be in the pipeline in order to serve an advanced notice on all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict that the sky is the limit as to what peace bring to the peoples of this region.

What —— aims to be done, however, is to begin the ground —— at an early date for holding the water regional forum on the highest level possible by identifying the issues and examining alternative responses to them. The water resources problems are complex and involve both technical and policy decisions recommendations of the highest order. In-depth studies need to be undertaken as early as possible on the technological and environmental implications of possible solutions that may emerge from any deliberations on this subject. Turkey's grand scheme of piping water from its territory all the way down to the Gulf region is promising though ambitious since the implementation of such a long-term project would require great investment in financial, technical and political terms. Perhaps a technical conference can be held on the eve of the proposed high-level political conference on the same subject in order to put the debate on it on the right course and without false illusions about what can and what cannot be achieved.

Yet first of all, the peoples and governments of the Middle East need to know now what may lie ahead and appreciate the benefits that would necessarily ensue from attaining a just and durable peace based on international legitimacy and law.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily expressed fear that the United States is planning to stage a fresh aggression against Iraq as the Arab states are preoccupied with the peace process in the Middle East. Should an American aggression occur, it would be of terrorism designed to subdue the Arabs before the peace conference gets off the ground and would bring about further frustrations about America's policies in the area, the paper pointed out. It is indeed strange to hear now threats being directed against Iraq at a time when Baghdad is manifesting all cooperation with the U.N. inspection teams, said the paper. The Americans are raising an unjustifiable uproar over Iraq's documents that contain plans for its past activities and are taking steps leading to a new aggression against the Iraqi people in total violation of international rules, the paper continued. It said that the United States should direct its attention on Israel instead because it realises too well that the Jewish state possesses a vast arsenal of mass destruction weapons that endanger world peace and security. The paper called on the Security Council to instruct its inspection teams to stop their provocation of the Iraqi government so as to avert further trouble in this unstable region.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily said foreign countries are indirectly stealing Arab funds and skilled Arab workers through the immigration process which has been escalated lately in Jordan and other Arab countries. Those who emigrate to other countries hold capital or skills, both of which are desperately needed in the Arab region to help promote development, said Mazen Hijazi. The writer said that slowly and gradually the Arab World, including Jordan, will be left with only the old, the sick and penniless and unproductive citizens. The writer said that foreign countries accepting emigrants are demanding large sums of money, reaching up to \$500,000 for visas. He said that even those with such vast sums of money are leaving the Arab World simply because they are frustrated with the systems. I do not demand that such migration stop but that equal opportunities and justice prevail and that new systems and new regulations aimed at attaining democracy be enacted so that people keep their money and their skills for the benefit of their own country, the writer added. He said that unless speedy action is taken in this regard, the Arab World is bound to see a depletion of human and material wealth.

How will the haggling affect Mideast peace hopes?

By Patrick Buchanan

SUNDAY, the president of the United States was called a liar, a demagogue and an anti-Semite by a member of the Israeli cabinet, Morris Amitay, a leader of the Israeli lobby in Washington, hinted that Mr. Bush may be summoning forth the demons of "anti-Semitism."

The president's offence: He asked Congress, in the interest of peace, to delay, for four months, \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel.

When feelings run so deep as to call forth such vituperation of a president who rusted Patriot missiles to Tel Aviv, sent \$4 billion in aid this year, and destroyed Israel's mortal enemy, it is time for an airing of grievances. For this marriage is in deep trouble.

First, it is propaganda to call that \$10 billion "humanitarian aid," which summons up a vision of food, blankets and medicine. The money is for roads, houses, utilities, i.e. infrastructure half-way around the world when our own infrastructure is crumbling.

Second, these guarantees make no economic sense for the United

States, which is to start running a \$400 billion deficit in October, or for Israel, one of the most heavily indebted nations per capita on earth. Standard and Poor's rating of Israel's unsecured debt is Triple B Minus, the market's way of saying the Israelis are over their head, and U.S. guarantors are moving into junk bond territory.

That \$10 billion for 1 million Jewish immigrants factors out to \$40,000 for every family of four arriving in Israel, more than we provide our own immigrants. How can Israel ever repay? Indeed, the probability is high that we Americans will have to make good that enormous sum, plus fees and compound interest over 30 years.

Nevertheless, says Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, "you Americans are obliged, from a moral point of view, to give Israel this aid."

Whence comes this moral obligation?

We acquired it, we are told, when we pressed Leonid Brezhnev to permit higher emigration of Soviet Jews. But Jackson

Volk of a generation ago was

passed at the behest of Israel himself. Is it not ludicrous to argue that those who pressed for release of Soviet Jews from the

Empire of 1973 thereby incurred a moral obligation to build condos for any who wish to depa

t Boni Yeltsin's Russia in 1991?

Poor Jewish refugees are

being held hostage to George Bush's pique over settlements?"

is how the case is being framed. But, compare the working-and middle-class Jews flying in to Tel Aviv, with the pathetic people of the West Bank and Gaza whose dreams are dying.

In 44 months of the intifada,

10,000 Palestinian teenagers and

children have been shot and

wounded, hundreds killed.

Scores of homes have been dynamited and thousands imprisoned without trial.

In last year's massacre on the

premises of the Haram Al Sharif,

19 unarmed Palestinians were

slaughtered, 140 wounded. Had

the men firing the guns been

Arabs, and the victims Jews,

would we all have stayed so silent?

Does no one recall the clause in the Balfour Declaration where Britain promised a homeland for Jews in Palestine, "it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."

This is what stands behind the

public anger of Mr. Bush.

Israel's settlements policy is

not only illegal and unjust; it is

folly.

While a homeland for the

Palestinians is no guarantee of

enduring peace, killing that

dream is a guarantee of permanent war: "Shamir has been

trying to create facts on the West

Bank that would make a land-for-

peace exchange impossible," says

editor Michael Lerner of Tikkun.

"Now he is demanding that the

United States give him the money

to subvert American policy."

Why is it anti-Israel for Mr.

Bush to reach the same conclusion as nearly half the Israeli

people? Any peace that leaves

millions of Palestinians locked up

in a Bantustan on the West Bank

is this line — Washington Times.

Beisen, chairman of the Israeli League of Human and Civil Rights, "Jews have been demanding equality in every country in which they happened to live, with the notable exception of Israel. Israel has always based its institutions on the denial of equality to non-Jews."

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public anger of Mr. Bush.

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millions of Palestinians locked up

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is this line — Washington Times.

consideration phase.

He delivered what amounted to an angry outsider's stump speech to a group of reporters in Washington Tuesday.

Mr. Jackson, who is trying to decide whether to run for president or host a talk show on the all news television network CNN, had a full schedule of events in Los Angeles last weekend.

He spent Sunday in San Francisco and Monday in Illinois and Ohio. On Tuesday, Mr. Jackson was in Maryland.

A series of education events in Virginia were on Mr. Jackson's schedule for Wednesday, followed by a hop into Pennsylvania.

"We are in a phase in which we are giving running our most serious consideration while at the same time doing substantive work developing our issues," Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Jackson, an actor who played the angry outsider Billy Jack in a string of movies in the 1970s, may be just about past the

campaign phase.

"That's just what I need," he said.

"He had no idea who I was," Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Kerrey, senator from Nebraska, is set to announce his candidacy on Monday and has called an old friend to head his campaign.

LETTERS

Drop by drop we save a lot

To the Editor:

One way of contributing to the immediate alleviation of the water problem is for the whole population of the country to manage their water consumption in a much more economical and efficient way.

The media — radio, television, the press — all can play a most effective role in enhancing people's awareness in this respect, reminding them daily about the right and wrong ways of using this precious and limited resource.

The UNICEF-sponsored vaccination films shown at regular intervals on Jordan Television are a successful example of how effective media campaign — whether health, environmental, or social — can be.

What we need now is a "help save water campaign." Television could produce spots depicting scenes of every day life. For example, most people probably leave their water taps running while brushing their teeth. The alternative to this wasteful method, letting the equivalent of approximately 10 to 15 cups of water literally "go down the drain" would be to fill one cup of water and close the tap. Or consider the usual method of washing one's car. Again, instead of letting water down the street, it should be pointed out that one bucket of water could also do the job.

Another example would be to introduce the idea of sewage treatment plants of private housing, thus recycling water, using it for non-drinking purposes such as watering gardens etc.

These are only a few examples.

"With a sudden increase in population, the issue of using water efficiently has become even more important. In this respect the media can play a very powerful role.

Nadia Abdulla-Sukhtia,

P.O. Box 1827,

Amman.

A question of ear

To the Editor:

Under the title "Music and Politics" a letter by Dr. Eftetem Aziz that appeared in the Jordan Times on Sept. 12. It seems that Dr. Aziz is not familiar with the support for fine arts and music always granted in Iraq by the state and by the Baath Party. Otherwise he could not have been so surprised to find a first class ensemble.

It seems as well that Dr. Aziz is guilty himself of what he accuses the foreign community in Jordan: politicising music and arts. As almost everyone in Amman should know, there are several reasons for sometimes unsatisfactory attendance of classical concerts: it is either too early or too late in the season or there are conflicting cultural events or social receptions. To conclude quickly that the foreign community is due to a negative political attitude towards Iraq is hasty and not justified. The final sentence of the letter "that would certainly be better than some of the third rate Western musicians dumped on us in the Third World ..." is disqualifying the author of the note.

Rodolf Kirsch,

Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Palestinian decision: A historical one

Local newspapers' editorials and columnists gave prominence to the ongoing Palestine National Council (PNC) meetings in Algeria, the Middle East peace process, American threats to Iraq and domestic issues.

The writer said that the PLO leadership is facing a dilemma; if it says yes, it would be succumbing to Washington's will; if it says no, it would be like selling out all the previous struggle for liberation of all of Palestine.

Mousa Al Abdullah, who writes for Al Dustour, sounded more pessimistic when he said that by accepting the U.S. peace plan will not bring about the PLO leadership risks to be eradicated simply because accepting Israel's terms for autonomy rule means accepting a situation whereby only municipal, communications and health services will be offered to the Arabs in the occupied regions and not total independence or sovereignty over the land.

Deviations, ingratitude and the \$10 billion question

By Dr. Bassam Saket

EVER since the establishment of Israel on Palestinian soil in 1948, it has been seen as a small state, democratic and looking for attaining peace with its Arab neighbours. Yet, during the past two decades, there appeared to us in the region, and to observers outside, that as the Arabs move forward towards peace, Israel has been inversely shifting its intentions and hardening its position, to become more intransigent.

Ever since its creation as a political entity, Jordan opted and cherished peace and worked for it. With the moderating influence of His Majesty King Hussein, the Arabs accepted peace and coexistence with Israel despite the antagonism shadow and memory of losing land to Israel in 1948 and 1967.

In the aftermath of 1967 war, Israel claimed that once the Arabs accepted and recognised its existence, occupied land could be returned to its rightful Arab owners. Fearing to lose face, pride and dignity, and declining to accept defeat, Arab countries refused to recognise Israel before having her relinquish the spoils of war. Israel, on the other hand, banked on such state of the Arab mind and continued colonising the occupied territories, home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

Under the pretext of housing Jewish "refugees" from the Soviet Union, Europe and Ethiopia, Arab lands have been expropriated, people harassed and their human rights infringed, measures in complete contrast to Israeli claims of democracy and respect for human rights. The annual State Department report on the status of human rights around the world is the best testimony to such underscored violations.

To strengthen its grip on occupied Arab lands, Israel claimed those lands as safeguards from possible Arab invasion — whereas military strategists as well as the recent experience of the Gulf war have clearly showed geography to be no longer a source of security for nations; long-range rockets and other weapons can go beyond borders and reach far away targets. Yet, Israeli leaders claim they are more knowledgeable than their close friends and protectors in the U.S. and Europe.

In their march towards peace and moderation, Arab and Palestinian leaders at summit meetings have shown their acceptance of Israel and asked, in return the implementation of international legality in Palestine. Yet, paradoxically, Israel fears and refuses to accept the resolutions of the United Nations, the very institution that offered Israel the certificate of birth at its early inception on Arab lands.

Once Israel realised that its claims to Arab lands did not stand to security tests and modern warfare experiences, neither did they stand international legitimacy, it started in motion another process of deviation by claiming that Soviet Jews are "refugees" and need lands for settling them. This pretext does not hold water, having the following in mind:

-These Jews are not "refugees" but "immigrants." They were not forcefully kicked out of the Soviet Union.

-They have not been given alternative routes and destinations of their own choice.

-They are not ideologically attached to Israel but only people seeking a betterment to their life. Once given freedom of choice, they would seek alternative destinations other than Israel.

Currently, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the U.S. pledged to carry out a peace process to solve the Palestinian-Israeli and the Arab-Israeli disputes. In his March 6, 1991 speech in the U.S. Congress, President George Bush pointed out the region's source of pain, i.e. lands occupied by Israel and its people deprived of their human rights — a source of continued violation of international legitimacy and conflict in the region.

Jordan, together with other Arab states, accepted the U.S. wishes and considered them positive steps particularly as they are coming from America, the benefactor, supporter and protector of Israel. By contrast, the Israeli leadership, realising the seriousness

of the U.S., Europe and Arab countries towards peace and that it would entail relinquishing spoils of war, started a customary mechanism for deviation and escapism.

The present dispute between the U.S. president and Israel over the \$10 billion loan guarantees, to colonise Arab lands, clearly demonstrates how Israel wants the funds and denies its beneficiary any right to question the use of such huge sums. It also shows how a small country moulds its protector.

Israel claims those huge sums are for the private sector in Israel; they are for humanitarian uses on refugees and not for housing on occupied Arab lands. In practical terms and over the past 24 years of Israeli military rule over the occupied Arab lands, U.S. tax payers funds have been generating almost 40 per cent of Israel's national income and also financing the gradual and creeping annexation of Arab territories. Economists know the ABC of liquid funds' use. Money is fungible. Population is also fungible. If Israel gave promises to its U.S. benefactor that aid would never be used to expropriate Arab lands nor for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants, experience has shown these promises impractical, fake and deceiving. Only dumb politicians take them at face value. U.S. funds handed over to the Israeli socialist administration can free other Israeli funds for colonising the occupied lands. By the same token promises to limit settling immigrants to areas inside Israel, would not forbid other Israeli settlers moving in the occupied territories — the home of 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs.

Furthermore, it is equally absurd to claim that the \$10 billion is for humanitarian reasons as they have been used for expropriating occupied lands, building military roads, supplementing over 40 per cent of Israel's military spending, injuring and killing Palestinian children and deporting the indigenous people of the occupied territories. How on earth could one believe Israel's claims that these funds are for humanitarian ends? How could this make the U.N. formula of peace for land workable? It will, certainly, subvert it. The "construction" of Israeli colonies on Arab lands is tantamount to "destruction" of both the U.N. and the U.S. values. Crimes that were committed on Jews are surprisingly, committed by the Israelis on Palestinians. How could anyone name the following practices humanitarian or democratic: deportations, land expropriations, daily shooting of teenagers and Housing Minister Sharon's concept of transferring Palestinians to Jordan away from their ancestors' land? One wonders, within the framework of the new international order, whether the U.S. would continue tolerating, permitting and covering up Israel's violations. One would also wonder whether freezing the Israeli colonisation process and putting on hold the \$10 billion loan guarantee, would fall into what Mr. Baker once called "confidence building measures."

International and Israeli press had reported how the president of the United States is called a liar, a demagogue and an anti-Semite by a member of the Israeli cabinet only because the president and his team intend to delay guaranteeing the loan to Israel, an amount equal to \$40,000 for every household of four immigrants coming to Israel. This is, in fact, a corollary of past U.S. administration's misreading of foreign policy and a sheer ingratitude, on the part of Israel. What makes us deeply concerned is to have seen some U.S. congressmen, the supposedly informed, the supposed guardians of the American revolution, values and heritage, standing at odds with a U.S. president fighting for safeguarding his country's interests and upholding human values and international legality. Not only do they stand at odds with their elected president, they also make the U.S. Congress lose its free will and become hostage to an outside client. We are wondering how a decent ordinary American would react and perceive his country's highest authorities as subservient to a tiny selfish partner?

near the television centre.

Opposition moderates denied there had been a full-scale attack and accused Mr. Kitovani of trying to spark an insurrection.

Leading moderates, including Mr. Notadze, would prefer to force the calling of a parliamentary session to consider their demands.

But President George Bush has made direct U.S. assistance conditional on the Soviets' revamping their economy.

In Tadzhikistan, democratic forces and Muslim leaders have declared a war of protest, strikes and outside pressure against diehard communists who they say seized the republic in a coup.

As chanting crowds grew outside the parliament building, opposition leaders told a news conference they would not let up until President Rahimjan Nabiyev resigned and human rights were assured in the Central Asian republic.

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PNC seen heading towards compromise

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. positions.

An overwhelmingly majority of PNC members favoured taking part in the conference despite strong opposition from hardliners, Mr. Abu Sharif and other delegates said.

Mr. Arafat wants to find a formula that also has the support of the hardliners, who set the U.S. proposals on the conference as a sellout of Palestinian interests, the delegates added.

The hardliners are also reluctant to give the PLO Executive Committee, which Mr. Arafat chairs, a free hand in the complex negotiations likely to take place during preparations for the conference, which is tentatively scheduled for October.

These points were holding up the end of the parliamentary session, which opened on Monday and was to end on Friday.

Delegates forecast the meeting could last until early on Saturday with the election of a new PLO Executive Committee.

If Mr. Arafat fails to win consensus, he would settle for a simple majority vote, delegates said.

The main opposition comes from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, who rejected the argument that the conference is a golden opportunity to salvage some of the Palestinian territory.

The hardline wing of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayef Hawatmeh, is softening its position and could swing to Mr. Arafat's side, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat said he had asked King Hassan to approach the American president for clarifications of the U.S. stance on the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Bush's response was that the United States supports "the political rights of the Palestinian people based on international legitimacy," Mr. Arafat said. It was the first time the United States referred to "political rights of the Palestinian people" rather than "legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

He told the council: "This is a courageous stand from Mr. Bush."

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

strikes to force Iraq to comply with the resolutions.

Quoting unnamed sources in the Bush administration, the newspaper said that in halting major military movements, administration officials had disclosed that preparations for possible new military missions inside Iraq and bombing raids had been both advanced and extensive.

A helicopter base was being established in northeastern Saudi Arabia to support any U.N. helicopters searching inside Iraq, the New York Times said.

It said it was unclear what prompted the Saudi decision not to accept more U.S. warplanes but added that some officials suspected the Saudis were becoming increasingly uneasy about U.S. plans to deploy military units in Saudi Arabia.

Although there were signs of an end to the parking lot stand-off, a related dispute on U.N. inspectors using helicopters in their task of hunting down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was proving more difficult to solve.

Mr. Arafat did not mention in his speech newly relaxed Palestinian positions, which still must be accepted by the council and the PLO's Executive Committee.

The decree Mr. Arafat read, which he issued on Nov. 15, 1989, dealt with setting up a "national institution for civil affairs" to issue identity cards and such. The chairman noted that it was his first decree "after I was elected president of the Palestinian republic."

PLO officials said the decision to compromise was made after studying assurances from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker including a pledge to work towards a Palestinian homeland and to pressure Israel to halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The officials said PLO leaders decided to support a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks that includes Palestinians only from the occupied territories — a key Israeli demand.

The leaders also decided to allow Jordan or another Palestinian group to formally announce the participants, the officials said. Still, it is expected the PLO play a major role in choosing the delegates and setting their negotiation strategy.

In exchange for the concessions, the United States has assured the PLO that Palestinians would get equal footing with all other parties and be recognised as a distinct group, the officials said.

The United States also guaranteed its backing of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under a three-year timetable, rather than the five-year plan outlined in the 1978 Camp David accords, the sources said.

The United States has been trying for months to bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestinians over representation at the proposed peace conference.

Israel has said it will not agree to participants from Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Bush, when told the PLO seemed excited by the remarks attributed to him, said there was no departure from previous U.S. policies.

"May they are trying to be helpful. I hope so," he said during a state dinner for the Moroccan monarch Thursday.

An Arafat aide described Mr. Bush's remarks as the first time a U.S. president had referred to the Palestinians as a people since Jimmy Carter left office in January 1981.

A senior PLO political expert said Mr. Bush had also told King Hassan that the conference would convene on the basis of "all U.N. Middle East-related resolutions and not just 242 and 338."

"This is fantastic...that means

the special resolutions on Jerusalem, the illegitimacy of Jewish settlements and the right of return or compensation" for expelled Palestinians would be the basis for the conference, he said.

A senior PLO official close to Mr. Arafat said Mr. Bush had given the Palestinians something of what they wanted.

"You have to understand that President Bush has two audiences ... in a way he is giving us something and at the same time does not want to appear before the Israelis as giving us too much."

The senior official said Mr. Baker gave Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian representative from the occupied territories, an audience in Amman last week in writing saying "that Palestinians are a people."

"All reference to Palestinians in the first letter of assurances were changed in the Amman meeting to 'Palestinian people,'" he added.

He also said King Hassan had told the Palestinians that Mr. Bush had said "things that will help you."

Dr. Habash of the PFLP refused to comment on Mr. Bush's latest remarks. He is strongly opposed to the U.S. proposal.

"This is the last day of the PNC (meeting). Let's wait and see the outcome," he told Reuters by telephone.

Soviet president voices concern

(Continued from page 1)

think what to do with these missiles," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Pydorov said in a speech to a London think-tank.

The future of the vast Soviet nuclear forces is one of the principal concerns for the West as the Soviet Union steadily disintegrates and power passes from the centre to the country's constituent republics.

In Tbilisi, moderates in the Georgian opposition, battered by a war of nerves with President Gamsakhurdia, have split with the national guard, saying civil war must be prevented.

Parliamentary Deputy Nodar Natadze said Friday the opposition was divided between those relying on the constitution to set

the Soviet republic free from Moscow, and rebel commanders trying to bring about change through force.

The national guard does not want to leave here," Mr. Natadze said, speaking at the Tbilisi television centre that has become the opposition stronghold.

"I think it would be better for them to take their weapons and move to a camp outside the city," he said. "This would stabilise the situation. But they refuse to leave."

The split in the opposition became apparent on Friday when the guards' commander, a scowling turned military boss, said there had been a brutal attack on his base camp outside Tbilisi.

The news spread panic through Tbilisi and thousands more people gathered at Heroes Square

near the television centre.

Opposition moderates denied there had been a full-scale attack and accused Mr. Kitovani of trying to spark an insurrection.

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All Africa Games 'will not help' Egypt's hopes to stage Olympics

CARIO (R) — The fifth All Africa Games were all but over Friday, with host Egypt failing in its expensive bid to show the world it was ready to host an Olympic Games.

The athletics competition, showcase of this sporadically staged continental sports festival, ended Thursday with the Nigerian and Kenyans re-asserting their traditional dominance.

The only matter of international significance still to be decided before the closing ceremony Tuesday was which hockey team would represent Africa at the Olympic Games in Barcelona next summer.

Scheduling and procedural mix-ups, a computer system that often took hours to produce results, and the absence of six of Africa's seven world athletics champions detracted from the games.

But the most telling blow to Egypt's dreams of staging the first Olympic Games in Africa in the year 2004 was struck a week ago, minutes before a torch perched atop a replica of a pyramid was lit in a colourful opening ceremony.

Dozens of dignitaries from African Olympic committees and sports federations were caught up in a frightening crush outside the main entrance to Cairo Stadium. Reporters at the scene said they were amazed on one was seriously hurt.

"The opening ceremony was one of the best I have seen in my life," International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch told reporters the next day. "But maybe

what happened before the ceremony was not on the same level."

IOC Vice-President Keha Mbaya saw the chaos ahead of him at the gate and returned to his hotel to watch the ceremony on television.

Mr. Samaranch said he had discussed with President Hosni Mubarak setting up a committee to study the possibility of Egypt hosting the Olympics in 2004 at the earliest.

While diplomatically praising the standard of the facilities, he offered few other encouraging words.

Nigeria finished top of the 100 and 200 metres after being persuaded to run for newly-independent Namibia by the country's President Sam Nujoma. Other African countries had less success in taking their athletes into coming to this purely amateur event, part of an Olympic-style continental games.

Kenyan steeplechaser Moses Kiptanui was the only one of Africa's seven gold medallists from the recent World Athletics Championships in Tokyo to run in Cairo.

Even Kiptanui said he acted "like a soldier" after Kenyan team officials ordered him to participate despite a calf injury.

Fredericks expressed surprise at the number of stay-away stars.

"It looks like the majority don't want to compete for their motherlands," said the world 200 metres silver medallist.

"It's a great honour for me to be here."

Fredericks' gold in the 100 metres Monday was Namibia's first in international competition and the country's few-found freedom made him a case apart.

African world champions such as Zambia's 400 metres hurdler

Samuel Mateete clearly did not feel like performing in an almost deserted stadium at the end of an exhausting season on the Grand Prix circuit.

"Mateete, like several Kenyan runners, feels there is no prestige in this event and is not going to run if there is no (appearance) money," Kenyan athletics official Robert Ouko said.

Nigeria finished top of the athletics medal standings, edging out Kenya by one gold — a repeat of the outcome at the last All Africa Games in 1987.

Fatima Yusuf, 1990 world women's 400 metres junior champion, won over the distance here but was pipped on the line in the 200 metres by compatriot Tina Ibeagwam.

Mary Onyali won the 100 metres as Nigeria's women swept the board in the sprints.

Kenyan men and women dominated in middle and distance events despite the absence of Tokyo gold medallists Billy Cherchellah, Yobes Ondiek and Moses Tamai.

Ethiopia took four golds with 19-year-old Fita Bayessa, second behind Ondiek in the 5,000 metres in Tokyo, winning here and forecasting Ethiopia was ready to challenge Kenya's supremacy over longer distances.

But the games' standing among athletes was underlined by Ethiopian marathon gold medallist Tensie Negere.

"I'm not so excited about winning here as I know I'm a second-class man as Ethiopian marathon runners go," he said.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyprus rally begins

NICOSIA (AP) — The Rothmans Cyprus Motor Rally, the last major event counting towards the European Championship, started here Friday with a total of 85 starters. But there are no star foreign drivers among the 13 non-Cypriot entries this year for one of top 10 rallies counting toward the European Championship. Most of them have just finished off the Australian Rally and the championship is all but wrapped up. Interest is expected to concentrate on local drivers.

U.S.-France Davis Cup final to be in Lyon

PARIS (AP) — The Davis Cup final between France and the United States will be played in Lyon starting Nov. 29, the French Tennis Federation announced Thursday. France's biggest indoor arena, Bercy, in Paris, but scheduling of other events made it difficult to accommodate the three-day Davis Cup. A late bid by Paris was turned down, as was an application by Grenoble, site of the last Davis Cup final between France and the United States in 1982. The United States won in 1982, 4-1. Lyon's Palais Des Sports Gerland, never before a Davis Cup venue, has a capacity of 9,000. Bercy can hold 15,000.

IWF admits Baltics, S. Africa

DONAUESCHINGEN, Germany (AP) — South Africa, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were admitted Thursday into the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The governing body of the sport also awarded the 1993 World Championships to Melbourne, Australia. In an attempt to curb doping, which has tainted the sport, the IWF decided that weightlifters will have to check into the Olympic village in Barcelona next year five days before the start of the competition to undergo tests for drugs.

Tauziat reaches Bayonne quarterfinals

BAYONNE, France (AP) — Defending champion Nathalie Tauziat of France advanced to the quarterfinals Thursday in the \$150,000 Bayonne Women's Open with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over unseeded Karina Habusova of Czechoslovakia. Tauziat, the No. 3 seed, led 5-2 in the first set, but Habusova, the junior U.S. Open winner in August, won two straight games before Tauziat finally took the first set. In the second set, Tauziat was leading 4-1 when Habusova clawed her way back to 4-3. Tauziat regained her form to win the final two games. Tauziat, ranked No. 15 in the world, will face the No. 8 seed, Eva Stiglanova, also from Czechoslovakia, who topped Kristin Godridge of Australia, 6-0, 6-2. Top-seeded Manuela Maleeva Fragmene of Switzerland, currently ranked No. 10 in the world, eased into the quarterfinals after downing Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, 6-0, 6-2.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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SPOT THE RIGHT CARD

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K 8 6 2
♦ A 10 9 4
Void
♦ K 7 5 2

WEST
2 ♦ 7 3
2 ♦ 9 10 5
2 ♦ 7 5
2 ♦ A Q 10 5 J 9 6 4 3
2 ♦ 9 8 6 ♠ A 3

SOUTH
♦ J 4
K J 6
K 8 7 2
♦ Q 10 4

The bidding:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♦

Almost all the plays that are accessible to the declarer are available to the defenders as well. That even goes as far as the choice of card to play from many combinations, as this hand proves.

After painting an accurate picture of his holding, North could do no more than pass three no trump. With only one diamond stopper, it might have been wiser for South to select some bid other than three no trump—all of the alternate game contracts would have been superior

A diamond lead would have given declarer no chance if East is shrewd enough to preserve the jack. However, we do not fault West for being reluctant to lead away from the diamond tenace with only a four-card holding. The opening lead of the eight of hearts was covered by the king and queen taken by the king. Declarer returned the queen of clubs and East saw no point to holding on the ace.

The critical point of the hand had been reached. Obviously, for the defense to prevail East-West had to collect four diamond tricks in a row. However, a diamond shift play would not be enough to defend the contract. On a low diamond, declarer would simply cover and the king would be safe from attack. The jack of diamonds would be equally ineffective. Declarer would duck and West would be compelled to win the next diamond, and the defenders cannot collect more than three tricks in the suit—down one.

All competent declarers know the right card to play from this combination—the nine. Since South cannot cover, that will hold the trick. East can then continue with the jack, and no matter what declarer does, the defenders are sure of four tricks in the suit—down one.

Berger takes provisional pole for Spanish GP

BARCELONA (R) — Austrian Gerhard Berger learned the new Circuit de Catalunya faster than his rivals Friday to claim provisional pole for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix.

Berger, in a McLaren, clocked one minute 18.751 seconds in the first qualifying session to edge out Britain Nigel Mansell with only two minutes of the session remaining.

Mansell, in a Williams, had set the pace with a lap of 1:18.970 on his second run after 47 minutes of the hour-long session at the untried new circuit north-west of Barcelona.

Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who needs only to finish ahead of Mansell Sunday to clinch his third world drivers' title in four years, finished third-quickest in the other McLaren.

He shared the second row of the provisional grid with Mansell's Williams team mate Italian Riccardo Patrese.

German Michael Schumacher, in a Benetton, and Frenchman Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, were fifth and sixth.

The session was run in dry and sunny conditions but not high temperatures and on a dusty new track this meant most team's qualifying tyres lasted longer than usual.

Schumacher posted an early fastest lap in 1:21.201 and quickly reduced it to 1:19.974, in the process showing that the Pirelli Shod teams were likely to be unusually competitive.

His time remained the quickest until Patrese eclipsed it on his first run and then Mansell, on his second.

Michael Bartels of Germany, in a Lotus, lost control and went off but was not injured in the final minutes before Berger produced his extra-fast lap to claim provisional pole.

Senna had made a big effort to get his way no to the front row with him but he could not overtake Mansell.

After the session, Berger said:

"The car was fine, I was fighting a lot for the time as I wanted to catch Nigel. Now that the track has some rubber on it, there is more grip than yesterday and it is more enjoyable to drive.

"My engine was strong but I over-revved it on the first run and after that it lost some power, whether because of the over-rev or the heat I am not sure."

Mansell said: "It has been very hard to get motivated today. I haven't slept a lot since last weekend in Estoril and it took me a long time to get going.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Top 4 Jordanian U-19 basketball teams clash Sunday in 2nd stage

By Aleen Baamram
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli meets Al Jazira and Al Orthodox meets Al Watani Sunday in the opening matches of the second round of the under-19 basketball competition organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The first four teams out of 10 will play in the second round which will end on Oct. 16 with 12 matches played at Al Ahli and Al Orthodox club courts.

The first round of the competition, which lasted over a month, ended with Al Orthodox leading the team standings followed by all-time rival Al Ahli. Al Jazira came in third and Al Watani finished fourth. They were respectively followed by Al Jali, Homelemen, Hussain, Irbit, Abhael, and Catholic clubs.

"It was quite an exciting competition. There are many excellent young players who are a great asset to basketball in this country," said Issa Ammar, spokesman for the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The JBF has organised many competitions this year. The basketball season commenced with the women's championships in which four clubs participated. Al Orthodox won the cup, Al Ahli came in second, followed by Homelemen in third place and Al Jazira finished fourth.

Al Orthodoxy was the boys under 17 cup in which nine teams participated.

The second division team competition ended last month with winner Al Abdoun and runner up Homelemen claiming to the first division.

The competition, which draws the largest number of fans, the first division clubs championships will begin on Oct. 17 with eight teams participating. Title holders Al Ahli, who managed to steal the cup away from Al Orthodoxy after more than a decade of rivalry, will try to hold on to the cup for another year.

This year's basketball season will end after the Jordan Cup Championship due to be held in December.

The JBF hopes to regroup the youths and seniors national teams if the necessary funding is made available to properly train these teams and hopefully regroup the women's team.

According to Mr. Ammar, future activities planned by the JBF include a semi-basket tournament, and a women's event to further encourage women's basketball. The translation and printing of the international basketball regulations is currently underway. The regulations will be distributed to clubs, universities and colleges.

"One of the main concerns of the JBF is to expand and further promote basketball in all parts of the kingdom," Mr. Ammar told the Jordan Times.

"In order to achieve this, a committee has been set up to organise and follow up basketball activities in the north of the country, and hopefully the same will be done in the south," Mr. Ammar noted.

"The JBF is keen to promote basketball in the governorates and to that end many matches in the under 19 category, as well as second and first division matches are being held in Irbit and Karak."

Tottenham gets a boost ahead of Man. United match

LONDON (R) — Tottenham Hotspur, troubled by injuries ahead of their English League soccer clash with unbeaten leaders Manchester United, were given some good news Friday by strikers Gary Lineker and Gordon Durie.

Welsh international Pat Van Den Hauwe looks doubtful, causing further problems for a defensive line-up weakened by the enforced absence of Terry Fenwick, jailed for various driving offences, and a knee injury to Justin Edinburgh.

Newly-signed Scotland international Durie, whose partnership with Lineker this season has brought Tottenham five wins in seven league matches, was substituted during Tottenham's mid-week League Cup match in Swindon after failing a fitness test in midweek.

But manager Peter Shreeves said specialist treatment on the player's injured toe had improved his prospects.

Newly-signed Scotland international Durie, whose partnership with Lineker this season has brought Tottenham five wins in seven league matches, was substituted during Tottenham's mid-week League Cup match in Swindon after failing a fitness test in midweek.

Sheffield Wednesday, encouraged by Liverpool's unimpressive 2-2 League Cup draw in mid-week against third division Stoke, hope to end the Merseysiders unbeaten home record and become the first league winners at Elland Road for six months.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The key word is "opportunity." You are mentally very alive and have a fine chance to focus on almost any sign of interest especially whole yesterday was the focal point.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) you can see the ways and means by which you can have much of the world goods and also make headway in improving your possessions by a new plan.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) you can be just as personal as you wish about gaining the good will of those able to help you gain your intimate ambitions and factors of them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) you find that there are a number of private situations to be taken care of and this day is a good time to look into all phases and factors of them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 22) acquaintances you have known for sometime past are ones who are able to give you the support and backing that you need so state your wish to them.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Get out into the world of outside activity and find out who those who are prominent expect from you and give more time to some important civic venture.

<p

Financial Markets		Jordan Times	
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank	
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	Average Close Date 25/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 26/9/91	
Sterling Pound*	1.7355	1.7362	
Deutsche Mark	1.6810	1.6840	
Swiss Franc	1.4645	1.4656	
French Franc	5.7270	5.7435 **	
Japanese Yen	135.20	135.45	
European Currency Unit	1.2185	1.2151 **	

* USD Per £Y
** European Opening at 100 a.m. GMT
Euro-Germany Interest Rates Date: 26/9/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.40	5.40	5.55	5.75
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.25	10.00	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.05	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.95	7.95	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.31	9.37	9.40
Japanese Yen	6.93	6.50	6.25	6.06
European Currency Unit	9.84	9.84	9.75	9.75

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals		Date: 26/9/91			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	352.30	6.80	Silver	4.21	.095

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		Date: 26/9/91
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1904	1.1964
Deutsche Mark	.4092	.4102
Swiss Franc	.4688	.4711
French Franc	.1198	.1204
Japanese Yen*	.5150	.5176
Dutch Guilder	.3622	.3640
Swedish Krona	.1118	.1124
Italian Lira*	.0546	.0549
Belgian Franc	.01981	.01991

* For 100

Other Currencies		Date: 26/9/91
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7650	1.7700
Lebanese Lira*	.0770	.0775
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1837
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1861	.1874
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7300
UAE Dirham	.1861	.1874
Greek Drachma*	.3650	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700

Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market		Date: 26/9/91
Index	24/9/91	Close
All-Share	119.32	119.89
Banking Sector	99.75	100.55
Insurance Sector	120.84	120.89
Industry Sector	149.21	149.41
Services Sector	127.08	127.69

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7290/7300	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1354/59	Canadian dollar
	1.6848/55	Deutschmarks
	1.8980/90	Dutch gilders
	1.4670/80	Swiss francs
	34.72/76	Belgian francs
	5.7450/7500	French francs
	1259/1260	Italian lire
	133.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.1500/50	Swedish crowns
	6.5925/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.4975/5025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	348.80/349.20	U.S. dollars

U.S. envoy calls for cuts in Third World military spending

GENEVA (R) — U.S. Ambassador Morris Abram told developing countries Thursday they could help meet their own needs for capital by cutting back on military spending and checking corruption.

In a speech to a meeting of UNCTAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Mr. Abram also urged poorer nations to look to market-oriented reform to attract foreign investment and strengthen their economies.

"As to the future, it is axiomatic that sustained growth — for a country or a firm — requires capital, intelligent investment including education, and wise reinvestment of returns," the one-time U.S. human rights lawyer said.

Mr. Abram, the United States' permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, has long been a critic of the management of UNCTAD, established in 1964 to promote world trade and especially that of developing

"Where is the initial capital to come from? We all know the poorest countries are not awash in spare capital, although there may be some cases where shifts from consumption spending to investment are possible," he pointed out.

"Unnecessary military spending immediately comes to mind. Developing countries as a group spend some five per cent of their national incomes on armed forces — some \$160 billion a year — or about three times the level of aid flows," he added.

Mr. Abram said the changes in eastern Europe together with reforms and a reemergence of market-oriented economic policies in Africa, Latin America and much of Asia meant UNCTAD was continuing to change itself.

U.S. forgives Honduran debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a show of support for Honduras' economic reform programme, the Bush administration Thursday forgave \$431 million of that country's official debt to the United States.

Speaking at a State Department signing ceremony, Honduran President Rafael Callejas expressed gratitude for the U.S. gesture, saying it was equivalent to 18 months' income for each Honduran.

Since taking office almost two years ago, Mr. Callejas has moved to put the country on a sounder economic footing through currency devaluation and reduction of tariff barriers, among other measures.

Debt relief is one of the incentives President Bush is offering to Latin American countries in return for taking politically risky economic reform measures.

According to U.S. estimates, the \$431 million in debt relief constitutes 15 per cent of Honduras' overall debt and 55 per cent of the government's total debt to foreign countries.

Honduras was a close but sometimes reluctant political and military ally of the United States during the upheavals in Central America during the 1980s. Among other actions, Honduras allowed the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels to use its territory as a staging area for attacks against Nicaragua's leftist government.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gelbard said the debt relief agreement adds a new dimension to U.S.-Honduran relations.

Western diplomats argue the organization had over the past 20 years allowed itself to become involved in the East-West ideological struggle which has now ended with the collapse of communism.

They say that many UNCTAD officials promoted the "socialist" economic policies of the former Soviet Bloc because anti-Western rhetoric from the then communist countries matched their own negative view of the developed world.

Mr. Abram said the changes in eastern Europe together with reforms and a reemergence of market-oriented economic policies in Africa, Latin America and much of Asia meant UNCTAD was continuing to change itself.

The enforcement of the blockade on Iraq continues as normal on the Red Sea, but nothing spectacular has happened in the last 10 days," said one of

the sources.

Shipping sources in Aqaba told the Jordan Times no ship was recently turned away from docking at the Red Sea port, but on-board inspection of cargo was continuing, led by American warships patrolling the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba.

The government has made repeated representations to the U.S. government to ease the difficulties posed by the enforcers of the blockade who turn away ships they suspect of carrying goods bound for Iraq from mid-August 1990.

During his earlier visits, Mr. Baker promised to look into the affair. A set of guidelines were drawn up and agreed by Jordan importers earlier this year, but, according to shipping sources, these guidelines were not fully adhered to.

Various reasons were given for the lapse. Prominent among these was that the State Department had little influence in decisions of the Defence Department, under whose orders the American warships enforce the

standard procedure for most shipping lines — those which have not stopped sailing to Aqaba — now is to designate the Jordanian port as the last port of discharge — thus making it easier for on-board physical inspection of cargo and shipping documents.

American navy officers usually conduct the inspection, according to sources in Aqaba. "At least four warships — belong to the U.S., France, Britain and another country (any one of the anti-Iraq coalition) — converge on the commercial vessel which has been ordered to stop," said one source.

"The warships take positions around the target vessel and it is usually the Americans who go aboard while others keep guard,"

Contacts continue between Jordan, U.S. over search of ships bound for Aqaba

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Means to ease the adverse consequences for Jordan of the enforcement of the international trade embargo on Iraq were not raised during the visit last week of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who the Jordanian government is involved in a dialogue with American officials on the issue, according to informed sources.

"The enforcement of the blockade on Iraq continues as normal on the Red Sea, but nothing spectacular has happened in the last 10 days," said one of the sources.

Hundreds of vessels have been turned away from Aqaba since August last year, adding to the troubles of Jordanian importers who had to pay higher insurance and freight costs for transhipment.

A report prepared by the shipping sector and submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade recently put at \$48.5 million the extra shipping costs incurred by Jordanian importers since the imposition of the blockade at Aqaba. The amount only involves the extra freight and insurance costs paid by the importers for bringing the cargo into Aqaba from other ports where the goods were discharged by ships which were turned away from docking at the Jordanian port.

"Not included in the report are the production losses suffered by Jordanian manufacturing industries," said an informed source. "The industries had to suspend production awaiting the arrival of raw materials and spare parts and this has caused considerable losses," he explained.

The report was requested by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

according to the source.

The inspectors refuse Aqaba-bound cargo if the shipping manifest and related documents indicate the consignee's name as including the terms "and Sons" or "An Partner" or "Trading Agencies," apparently arguing that companies with such names could include Iraqis as partners and the goods are destined for Iraq.

The naval inspectors also insist that the shipping documents include the full street address of the consignee.

In recent days, after an intense campaign by the shipping and clearance sector, Jordanian importers are fulfilling all these conditions.

The U.S. embassy here declined comment on the contacts between Jordanian and American officials over the issue.

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Saudi oil policy seeks poor welfare

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia says its oil policy seeks to protect developing countries from sudden price rises or taxes imposed by the industrial world.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Thursday quoted Oil Minister Hisham Nazer as saying King Fahd did not want to see developing countries in Asia and Africa suffer due to an "abrupt rise in oil prices or taxes that could be imposed by industrial countries

Despite gunfire, Yugoslav army pullback lifts hopes for peace

ZAGREB (R) — Sporadic shooting erupted overnight in the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina but peace hopes were boosted by the federal army's withdrawal from a key Croatian frontline town.

Belgrade television said Croatian forces had launched a "frontal attack" on an army barracks in Vukovar in eastern Croatia Thursday evening, but gave no casualty figures.

Tanjug News Agency reported automatic gunfire in the village of Jasenica in south east Bosnia-Herzegovina, an ethnically mixed area where tensions are running high. It said tracer bullets lit the sky but also mentioned no casualties.

Croatian Radio said three children and an old man were killed when rival Serbs fired mortar bombs Thursday at the town of Drenik-Grad in western Croatia. It reported sporadic mortar fire overnight in Osijek in eastern Croatia.

Hopes of solving the conflict, which began when Serbs in Croatia rebelled against Croatian independence moves in June,

Gen. Kadijevic said he and

were raised by the resumption of a European Community peace conference on Yugoslavia in the Hague Thursday.

The army's pullback from a besieged barracks in the eastern Croatian town of Vinkovci, after repeated but abortive efforts to relieve it, indicated that the army may no longer feel it can crush the republic's National Guard at will.

"We will see very quickly if the things we agreed on actually hold in practice," Gen. Kadijevic said, without detailing the measures.

"If this does not happen, all three of us agreed that there would be no conditions for a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis," he added.

The rival forces in Croatia have not yet disengaged and the ceasefire has been severely strained by dozens of violations. Fighting continued Thursday south east of Zagreb, in western Croatia and on the Adriatic coast in southern Croatia.

Gen. Kadijevic said a United Nations arms embargo Wednesday came too late to prevent civil war.

"It would have been good if this decision had been taken earlier and implemented." Then we would not have these paramilitary formations and civil war in

Yugoslavia," he said.

He was referring to defence forces set up by the republics.

The agreement for the 400-man army garrison to leave Vinkovci came after Gen. Kadijevic's meeting with the Croatian and Serbian presidents.

They met after fierce fighting in Vinkovci earlier this week threatened to destroy the ceasefire.

The army also agreed another partial pullout from the Mostar region in the volatile Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina where fears of an explosive ethnic conflict have been growing.

Croatia's Foreign Minister, Zvonimir Separovich, called Thursday for an economic blockade of Serbia and the Yugoslav military as a means of forcing an end to three months of bloodshed.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Mr. Separovich said he received a "good reply" from Mr. Eagleburger to his suggestion but he did not elaborate further.



**Akihito
stresses
peace
pledge in
Thailand**

BANGKOK (R) — Emperor Akihito, on a peace mission to South East Asia, visited Thailand's War Memorial Friday and repeated assurances that Japan would not revert to militarism.

Emperor Akihito, on his first overseas trip since taking office, laid a wreath and observed a minute's silence in front of the Victory Monument in Bangkok honouring Thailand's war dead.

The emperor, accompanied by Empress Michiko, arrived in Thailand Thursday, their first stop on an 11-day tour that includes visits to Malaysia and Indonesia. Akihito is the first Japanese monarch to visit South East Asia, where memory of Japan's brutal military rule up to 1945 is still vivid.

In talks with Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, Emperor Akihito referred to a pledge he made Thursday that a peace-loving Japan would "never repeat the horrors of that most unfortunate war," a palace aide said.

"The prime minister thanked the emperor for bringing his message of peace... and the emperor referred to the unfortunate past again," the aide told reporters.

Emperor Akihito commented for the first time on Japan's military misdeeds in South East Asia but stopped short of an explicit apology at a welcoming banquet Thursday hosted by Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Japan's imperial armies advanced through East and South East Asia in the name of Emperor Hirohito, Emperor Akihito's late father. Many Asians still bitterly resent that brutal rule, which resulted in "deaths of millions."

In the meeting, Mr. Anand urged Japan to step up economic cooperation and direct investment in Thailand, said Kiyoshi Sumiya, the palace's grand master of ceremonies.

"The prime minister said that Thailand expects Japan to play a leading role (in the region)," Mr. Sumiya said.

Japan, which in World War II forced Thailand to allow its troops free passage during its sweep through the region, is now Bangkok's biggest trading partner and main foreign investor.

Mr. Anand, head of the military-installed government since last February's coup, thanked Emperor Akihito for choosing Thailand for his first foreign visit after ascending the throne on his father's death in January 1989.

Dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on Zaire capital

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — The embattled government of President Mobutu Sese Seko has declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Kinshasa and adopted an emergency plan to get provisions to the ransacked capital.

"Panama is threatening," Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said Thursday after four days of military-led rioting that ravaged the capital and may have claimed up to 100 lives.

A Belgium-based relief organisation, Doctors Without Borders, said its team in Kinshasa counted 40 dead people in two hospitals Wednesday night. But its Brussels-based spokesman, Dr. Pierre Harze, said the team estimated about 100 people had actually died.

He said that 1,250 to 1,750 people had been injured in rioting Monday and Tuesday led by Zairian troops, who took to the streets after not receiving their pay. That led to wider anti-government unrest.

Authorities dispersed several hundred demonstrators marching on the Belgian embassy "in an extremely violent fashion," injuring several people Thursday, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said.

The British Broadcasting Corp. said Mr. Mobutu's troops fired on demonstrators in the capital, but did not report casualties.

France and Belgium, which sent hundreds of troops to Zaire to assist in the evacuation of their citizens, reiterated calls Wednesday for Mr. Mobutu, who has ruled Zaire for 26 years, to move toward multiparty democracy.

French and Belgian troops have moved into Zaire's heartland as thousands of foreigners fled the central African country with tales of looting and unchecked violence.

Opposition leaders charged that Mr. Mobutu incited the troops to mutiny to provoke intervention by Western forces. Twice in the 1970s, Western troops intervened to keep Mr. Mobutu in power when dissident Zairians attacked from Marxist-ruled Angola.

State-run Radio Zaire, monitored in neighbouring Congo, said unrest had spread to Kisangani, 1,200 kilometres northeast of the capital; Kamina, 1,200 kilometres east; Lubumbashi, 1,800 kilometres south east, and Kolwezi, a mining town to the

South East where Belgian and French forces arrived Wednesday.

The spread of riots across the nation revived fears of the factional violence in the 1960s after the end of colonial rule. The fighting by breakaway regions left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

On Wednesday, the Belgian government decided to send 500 more troops to Zaire to protect its nationals, joining 500 already there. France now has 900 troops in the nation.

About 280 French and Belgian paratroopers were dispatched to the southern mining city of Kolwezi.

A French military source in Brazzaville said, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 2,000 foreigners — most of them French, Belgian, American, Italian or Israeli — had been evacuated from Zaire by late Wednesday. Several hundred others fled south to Zambia, Zimbabwe or South Africa.

"There is nothing left in Kinshasa. All the stores have been pilaged; all the factories burned, all the villas owned by Europeans emptied," said Claude Poussee, one of 241 evacuees who arrived Thursday in Paris.

Some Europeans who escaped the chaos told of killings, rape and looting by Zairian troops joined by civilians.

Gangs of armed Zairian soldiers threaten to shoot or stab foreign families unless they handed over their cash after systematically sacking their homes, evacuees from two days of riots in Kinshasa said Thursday.

"They came into the house and stole everything. Then they threatened my wife and three children with death three times," said construction firm manager Richard Slight, who arrived on one of the first evacuation flights to reach Belgium.

"When I say robbed, I mean there's nothing left," Mr. Slight said at the Neder-Over-Hetembe Military Hospital, the reception point for some 650 evacuees so far flown to Belgium.

"They took my shoes because they said I might have hidden money in them. They even looked under my wife's dress," he said.

U.S. may use troops to bar N.Korean nuclear project

SEOUL (R) — The United States and other world powers could use force to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, South Korean Defence Minister Lee Jong-Koo said Friday.

North Korea would be able to produce enough plutonium to make half a dozen nuclear bombs as early as next year, the official said.

North Korea's nuclear programme, which Pyongyang says is purely for peaceful purposes, has caused serious concern among its neighbours and nations that fear the isolated Stalinist state is close to developing nuclear arms.

While Pyongyang has signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, it has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The United States as a matter of policy refuses to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a specific site but has said Pyongyang's demand is peripheral to the issue of international inspection of North Korean facilities.

Despite the signed peace pact, the bloodletting continued Thursday. Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, attacked army positions along the main north-south highway 24 kilometres north of the capital of San Salvador. Radio reports said three soldiers and eight rebels were wounded in the fighting.

Some far-rightist and military factions are adamantly opposed to having the rebels join the new police force.

The creation of the civilian-headed force would follow the dissolution of current militarised police corps now under the Defence Ministry.

Some politicians have expressed fears that recalcitrant elements on the extreme right — both inside and outside — the military might attempt a coup in response to the accords.

But the first public response from a member of the army high command was positive.

The whole Salvadorean people receives the accord with satisfaction, especially the members of the military, we who live the war 24 hours a day. Perhaps we're the most satisfied of all," said Col. Carlos Herrante, commander of the 5th Army Brigade.

Column 8

Diana ends visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Britain's Princess Diana left Pakistan for home Friday having impressed many Pakistanis with her commitment to helping society's poorest and neediest. "We know that she is not just a figurehead princess," said Mira Phulkes, the principal of a Lahore Women's College the princess visited. The 30-year-old princess, wife of the heir to the British throne, was determined to show she was a working member of the royal family during visits to centres helping the disabled and drug addicts, British sources said.

With her two boys born more than two years apart, she was hailed by Pakistan's population control chief as the model mother. "We are going to prepare posters with the slogan 'Princess Diana only has two children' in the hope that more women will join the family planning programme," said Mahbub Ahmad, Pakistan's highest birth rate in the world but efforts to promote birth control and proper spacing of children are hampered by cultural barriers and opposition from some Islamic leaders.

Number of U.S. poor rises to 13.5% of population

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of poor Americans increased in 1990 with more than 13 out of every 100 living in poverty, U.S. statisticians have reported.

The 13.5 per cent poverty rate, the Commerce Department said, was higher than during the 1970s when the poverty rate dropped to 11.1 per cent of the population in 1973. Officials said that the number of people in poverty increased to 33.6 million in 1990 from 31.5 million in 1989 and most of those under the poverty line — 66.5 per cent — were white.

The United States has about 249 million people. In 1989, 12.8 out of every 100 people, 12.8 per cent, were poor.

Half of the U.S. poor are either children or elderly. A single person making less than \$6,652 annually would be considered poor. For a family of four, the poverty threshold is \$13,359. The department also released figures showing household income dropped for the first time since 1982, with the median household income at \$29,943 — a decline of \$25 from 1989.

That means half of all households had cash income of more than \$29,943 while half had less. It was the first drop in household income since the end of the last major recession in 1982.

The number of poor blacks did not change much between 1989 and 1990, but remained very high with 31.9 per cent of all blacks falling under the poverty line. More than 28 per cent of Hispanics were poor.

Liz Taylor resting at home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, ordered to rest after a near-collapse during an appearance this week, was upbeat Thursday and recovering her strength at home, a spokeswoman said. Ms. Taylor, 59, is under doctor's orders to rest in bed following a dizzy spell Tuesday in Houston, the eighth stop on a 10-city tour to promote her new perfume line. Here physician, Dr. Michael Roth, said Ms. Taylor was suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. Her spokeswoman said the actress was in excellent health. "Everybody's really exhausted after the eight-city tour," said Chen Sam, a spokeswoman for Ms. Taylor.

"I talked to her this morning and she's feeling much better." The ill spell came less than two weeks before Ms. Taylor's Oct. 6 wedding to construction worker Larry Fortensky. It will be the Hollywood glamour queen's eighth marriage. Miss Taylor met the 39-year-old Fortensky during drug abuse treatment at the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, California, in November 1988.

Morgue porter throws severed head at workmate

LONDON (R) — A British hospital fired the chief porter at its mortuary after he lobbed a severed head at a workmate. "It was a dreadful trick to play," said a trade union official at South Tyneside District Hospital in northeast England. The victim of the prank was lured to the mortuary and thrown a bag. When he caught and opened it he found the head of a man who had been killed in a train accident.

Troops clash with Bucharest palace demonstrators

BUCHAREST (R) — Riot police and anti-terrorist troops used tear gas and firecrackers to disperse a crowd of about 5,000 people who stoned Romanian President Ion Iliescu's palace and shouted for him to resign, eyewitnesses said.

The crowd was made up of local workers organised by trade unions and a small group of co-workers who stayed behind after thousands of their colleagues ended an earlier protest.

The security forces opened fire with tear gas and deafening firecrackers from behind a two-metre-high concrete wall at the Cotroceni Palace after protesters hurled stones and bottles, a Reuters correspondent said.

"Assassins, assassins," the demonstrators shouted as they scattered.

Women protesters were screaming angrily.

A correspondent said he saw a pool of blood near the palace gate but it was not clear immediately who was injured.

The crowd which launched the attack had marched from Bucharest's central Revolution Square to the palace in the west of the city intending to join the miners.

The clashes broke out after the 3,000 miners began leaving the palace for home after securing a pledge from Mr. Iliescu that their grievances over pay and work conditions had been acknowledged and he would visit them in the western Jiu Valley next Monday.

"We ask the Constituent

Assembly to fulfil its mandate of drafting the constitution as soon as possible, to give the country necessary guarantees for the existence of the state of law," it said.

At the same time, the NSF executive bureau unanimously considers it is urgently necessary that a new legislative assembly be constituted through immediate elections.

Mr. Iliescu earlier met NSF deputy leader Ion Aurel Stoica and leaders of eight opposition parties and asked them to propose a new government formula later in the day.

Leaders of two of the opposition parties called for a coalition government of technocrats capable of organising free and honest elections as soon as possible.

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